

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7810
INFO NSC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

S E C R E T MANAGUA 4341

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT CORRECTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, CS, NU
SUBJECT: ALFONSO ROBELO ON MEDIATION

SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR MET WITH ALFONSO ROBELO, LEADER OF
NICARAGUA DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MDN) TO EXPLAIN USG POSITION
ON CARAZO INITIATIVE. IN ENSUING TALK, ROBELO EXPRESSED HIS
VIEWS ON MEDIATION. END SUMMARY.

1. AT AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST, ROBELO AGREED TO MEET
AMBASSADOR AT RESIDENCE ON SEPTEMBER 11. AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED
USG POSITION ON THE CARAZO INITIATIVE. ROBELO TOLD AMBASSADOR,
ON EXTREMELY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS, THAT THE BROAD OPPOSITION
FRONT (FAO) HAD APPOINTED HIM, SERGIO RAMIREZ (GROUP OF 12) AND
SECRET

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RAFAEL CORDOVA RIVAS (UNION OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERATION - USDEL)
TO REPRESENT FAO IN ANY CONTACT WITH CARAZO. ACCORDING TO ROBELO,
THE MDN WOULD WELCOME MEDIATION, BUT THIS COULD NOT MEAN DIRECT
CONTACT WITH SOMOZA. FROM THE MDN POINT OF VIEW, CONTACT SHOULD
BE MADE WITH THE PILLARS OF THE REGIME--PLN AND GN LEADERS--
AND NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE WITH THEM.

2. ROBELO SAID HE UNDERSTOOD AMBASSADOR'S NOTION THAT SOMOZA'S RESIGNATION AS A PROCONDITION OF ACCEPTING MEDIATION COULD RESULT IN THE FAILURE OF THE CARAZO INITIATIVE. WHILE ROBELO SAID HE WAS TACTICALLY WILLING TO FOREGO SUCH AN APPROACH, ULTIMATELY THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF DIRECT NEGOTIATION WITH SOMOZA BECAUSE SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD ADD LEGITIMACY TO SOMOZA AND DETRACT FROM THAT OF THE OPPOSITION. ROBELO WENT ON TO SAY THAT MEMBERS OF THE MDN WERE ACTIVE IN THE VIOLENCE WHICH BEGAN ON SEPTEMBER 9. HE CONSIDERED THAT THE FSLN HAD A KEY ROLE TO PLAY IN ANY MEDIATION. WITHOUT FSLN PARTICIPATION, HE FELT NO PACIFICATION OF THE COUNTRY WOULD BE POSSIBLE. ROBELO ENDED BY SAYING THAT THAT THE MDN HAD HAD CONTACTS WITH CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ WITHOUT DIVULGING ANY SPECIFICS. HE SAID HE WOULD CONTACT OTHERS IN THE FAO AND THE ARCHBISHOP TO DETERMINE THEIR POSITIONS ON THIS MATTER.

3. COMMENT: ROBELO MAINTAINS A HARD-LINE, LINKING SOMOZA'S CONTINUANCE IN POWER TO FAILURE OF ALL ATTEMPTS TO RESOLVE THE CURRENT CRISIS. EMBASSY BELIEVES HE IS WILLING TO SUPPORT PRINCIPLE OF MEDIATION SO AS NOT TO APPEAR TOTALLY INFLEXIBLE, ESPECIALLY IN THE LIGHT THAT HIS NATURAL CONSTITUENCY (MOSTLY BUSINESSMEN) WISH A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. HOWEVER, ROBELO HAS HAD SECRET CONTACTS WITH FSLN. SOLAUN

SECRET

NNN

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